Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That is the issue price of salt at the depot.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was it sold at Rs. 2—10—0 before the middle of Karkadagam ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I do not know what was the issue price before the middle of Karkadagam.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know why it was sold at less than the cost price?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Gavernment):* The expenditure incurred during an experimental stage cannot be treated as the basis for fixing the issue price of any commodity.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* Is the operation going on this year also ?

Mr. C. J. Mathaw *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the Budget Estimate ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Rs. 36.000.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is it not better than other salts ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes, in point of purity in particular.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Why was it not given for human consumption ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Since the manufacture of salt is only in an experimental stage even now, the salt produced was used only for industrial purposes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Has it been analysed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it good for human consumption ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

RAMAN MENON, MALIYAKKAL—LATE VILLAGE PEON—PAYMENT OF GRATUITY AND ARREAR PAY

183. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to State.—

(*a*) when did Maliyakkal Raman Menon s/o Kalyani Amma, Village peon, Kanipayyur Village, who was working in Porkolam Village, Talapalli Taluk die ;

(*b*) the number of his dependents who are his heirs;

(*c*) whether the gratuity, arrears of pay and security amount were paid to his heirs;

(*d*) if so, when;

(*e*) the number of petitions received from the widow of the deceased peon;

(*f*) the financial condition of the dependents of the deceased village peon ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) On 5th Thulam 1119 M.E.

(*b*) Eight (Six children, his wife and mother).

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The question does not arise in view of answer to (c).

(*e*) Two, (1) 2nd Dhanu 1119 (2) 16th Edavam 1119.

(*f*) Poor.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* What is the reason for the inordinate delay in paying the gratuity and arrears of pay, especially to such a poor family consisting of six children, a widow and a mother ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The liabilities had to be ascertained. There were claims from other quarters like Co-operative Society. That was the reason.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Even then is it not a great delay ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In the matter of ascertaining liabilities it does take time and a little more caution is to be exercised.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Hon'ble Diwan Peishkar will see that such cases are expedited ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Even in this particular case we have released the security but three months have to elapse for actual payment.

PANKUPATTAM AND VARAM LEASE—RECOGNITION BY GRAIN PURCHASING TAHSILDARS

184. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have noted the News Item No. 5 in the "Cochin Express," Page 2, dated 27th Kanni 1120 reported by the local reporter at Trichur under date 26th Kanni 1120 ;

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(*b*) whether they or the Director of Food Supplies has issued any order that the Grain Purchasing Tahsildars shall not concede any unregistered "Pankupattam" or "Varam" lease and allow the grains (paddy) be taken by the cultivator;

(*c*) if so, whether they (the Grain Purchasing Tahsildars) have been ordered never to take into consideration as valid even such registered leases registered after 1117;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Talappalli and Trichur Grain Purchasing Tahsildars have been following different policies;

(*e*) whether all the Grain Purchasing Tahsildars have been following the same policy of not conceding the validity of even registered "pankupattam" and "varam" leases before 1117;

(*f*) have the Government or the Director of Food Supplies permitted the Trichur Grain Purchasing Tahsildar to give recognition to such unregistered leases and registered leases of 1117 and after as valid;

(*g*) if so, the full names and addresses of those gentlemen of Trichur Taluk and other parts in the State where such unregistered leases and registered leases of 1117 and after have been recognised as bonafide?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. After the Paddy Acquisition and Rationing Orders came into force, there has been an attempt on the part of non-cultivators to find out means to come within the category of landholders as defined in the rules and to get the benefit enjoyed by such agriculturists. The Tahsildars have been instructed to scrutinise all such transactions and deeds and see whether any of them is a deliberate attempt to defeat the procurement scheme.

(*c*) No. In the interest of paddy purchase, the Grain Purchase Tahsildars will examine all such documents and transactions entered into after 1117.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No such policy is followed by any of the Grain Purchasing Tahsildars.

(*f*) No. The instruction is that all such transactions after the Rationing Order were to be subjected to special scrutiny since there was greater likelihood that some of them were not genuine. Each case has to be decided on its merits.

(*g*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*f*).

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* What is the harm in giving a list of the several cases of unregistered leases recognised by each Tahsildar?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The number of such cases will be very many. It will not be easy to find out all the instances. If names are supplied we can enquire into it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to place such a list on the Council table before the end of this meeting?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The Government do not think it necessary.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* There has been several complaints that people who are not actual cultivators have manipulated unregistered leases which at the very face of them will be found to be not actual cultivators.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There have been such cases and in such cases we have not been allowing paddy.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Are there not genuine cases of varam and pankupattam?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* When a document is registered according to the rules who is to decide whether it is genuine or not?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Of course, the officer concerned will enquire into it and see whether the transaction is genuine or not.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I speak only about unregistered leases.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Most of these transaction are covered by registered documents.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether it will not be useful if the Members of the Food Advisory Committee are put in possession of this information?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* These are matters of ordinary executive work and such things are not placed before the Advisory Committee. They are consulted only in regard to the policy of the Department and such other things.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: What is the secrecy about this ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There is absolutely no secrecy. It is only an ordinary routine work of the Department.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether this House has not a right to question whether the Grain Purchasing Tahsildars have properly used their discretion ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes. But the request of the Hon'ble Member was that a list of all cases of unregistered leases must be placed before the House and I submitted that it was not a practical proposition.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know how many such cases there are ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I want notice.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Can the Government say that all the registered deeds are genuine ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Are the Government aware that the Rationing Order and the Verumpattamdars' Act actually synchronise ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: It may be so.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Are the Government aware that the wives of certain editors of news-papers in Trichur are doing actual cultivation work miles off from Trichur on Pankupattam and Varam leases ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I am not aware of any particular instance.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to get a list of such cases.

Mr. President: Order, order. I suggest that if the Hon'ble Member is aware of cases in which irregularities are being committed he should supply the Hon'ble Member for Food Supplies with such information in order that a proper investigation may be made.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: This can be easily found out if he inquires.

Mr. President: Order, order.

GRAIN PURCHASE—COMPLAINTS REGARDING

185. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of cases under the Food Control (Grain Purchase) Order complained of by the Parvathiam of Minalur and Peringandoor villages, Talappilli Taluk ;

(*b*) will they please state the quantity of grain or rice involved in each ;

(*c*) will they please state whether any of such complaints have been referred by the Police after investigation and the grounds for such reference ;

(*d*) will they please inform whether the complaints were lodged with the Police under the orders of the Grain Purchase Tahsildar ;

(*e*) will they kindly inform whether ration cards issued to the family of the accused in any such cases were taken into custody by any authority ; if so, number of days the family or families have been deprived of the use of such cards, the officer by whom and on what authority these cards were taken into custody ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: (*a*) Four.

(*b*) Quantity of paddy involved:

(1) 9,341 paras
(2) about 200 paras
(3) 20 paras
& (4) 2 paras.

(*c*) Yes.

Case No. 2 was referred, as mistake of fact.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No ration cards have been taken into custody but in the case No. 4 the ration was suspended till 1st Thulam 1120. This was done because the card-holder had with him paddy required for consumption for the above period.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Has any one of these cases been prosecuted ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes. Case No. 3 was prosecuted and fined Rs. 100.

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